

FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., GOVERNOR
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Dear FNF Readers:

I recently took time away from the office to experience a country very different from America and one that reminded me of the joy, beauty and riches of where I am blessed to call home. With a group from the non-profit, Ambassadors for Children, I traveled to Nairobi and Eldoret, Kenya. After 17 hours on an airplane, I was thrilled to have my feet on the ground and was excited to meet new people and to be immersed in a different culture.

While there are people who live a comfortable life similar to what we experience in America, there are thousands more, especially children, who do not have a place to lay their head at night, not even a homeless shelter bursting at the seams. To see barefoot children, wandering the roads and foraging for food was a reminder of America's great wealth and opportunity. Yes, I know that there are adults and children who hunger for food in America but the numbers pale in comparison.

What amazed me more than anything was that when you asked a child what they wanted most, without hesitation, most of the children responded that they wanted a uniform for school. Education is available to all citizens of Kenya at no cost, but does require a uniform. To the children of Kenya, a uniform symbolizes hope and opportunity. A simple tunic or sweater and skirt will unlock a world that holds nothing but promise for a brighter future. From the youngest Kenyan to adults, who might be well past the normal age for elementary school, a uniform represents every dream they can imagine. And, then I thought about the education crisis in our own country, where children bemoan the fact that the summer is over and they must return to school. Our children struggle to learn English, while the Kenyan children I met spoke English and Swahili, and sometimes 1 or more additional languages. Our children ride to school on a school bus or are delivered to school by their parents/guardians, while the Kenyan children I met walked for 30-60 minutes every morning and afternoon to attend school. Lunch is not served at school, so many of these students (in Eldoret) walked back to their home for lunch and returned to school for afternoon sessions. Some students chose not to make the mid-day trek because time did not allow them to return to school on time given the distance they had to walk.

I came away realizing that being a country with great material wealth does not mean that our children know the most important things to value. We just might have a few things to learn from some of the developing countries around the world.

Asante (Thank you!)



Attention: Faith-Based, Non-Profit, Civic Community Organizations

The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is requesting to faith-based, non-profit, civic and community service organizations the opportunity to schedule a presentation on the benefits and rewards of volunteerism and service in community enrichment programs. Dr. Dennis Benson, a Marketing & Outreach AmeriCorps*VISTA with OFBCI's will present a 15 – 20 minute presentation on the topic "Getting Things Done in Indiana."

The program will present information on how individuals and organizations can work together to serve Hoosiers through mentoring, volunteerism, disaster relief, the Share Network, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs. The importance and value of how people of all ages are now contributing greatly in community projects by volunteering their skills, talents and knowledge in resolving many kinds of issues Hoosiers are confronted with today. This will be a program designed to instill interest and motivate activities for your members to become involved in getting things done in Indiana through volunteerism and service.

To schedule this presentation for your organization's monthly or weekly members' meeting, contact Dr. Benson at 317-234-4289 or E-mail: debenson@ofbci.in.gov

COMMUNITIES FOR LIFE

Notification of Upcoming RFA
Upcoming Funding Opportunity



The University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community (CAC), working as an agent of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of Aging, will release a Request for Application for organizations seeking funding to develop "Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities" (NNORCs). This program is called Communities for Life. The RFA will be sent out directly on August 15, 2007 and will also be available at www.CAC.uindy.edu.

CAC will award funding and technical assistance to five applicants from eligible not-for-profit (501c3) organizations to conduct a needs assessment and develop a program plan and evaluation for supportive service programs in geographically defined neighborhoods throughout the state of Indiana. Both rural and urban neighborhoods will be awarded funding representing diverse geographical areas. Applicants will be accepted based on their commitment and ability to build capacity, partake in a community needs assessment, coordinate and identify gaps in existing services, and help aging residents maintain their independence, improve their quality of life, and successfully age in place. Each grant will be for \$75,000 in direct funds with an additional \$65,000 provided in technical assistance.

Inquiry Period: Applicants may submit written questions to CAC (via e-mail to bachmanj@uindy.edu) between August 15, and August 31, 2007. No questions will be accepted after 4:30pm on August 31. A conference call will be held with interested applicants to answer questions on August 22 from 1-3pm EST. Specific details on how to access the conference call will be available August 15 on CAC's website – www.CAC.uindy.edu.

Accessing the RFA: Agencies wishing to review and submit the RFA may do so on or after August 15, 2007 by going to www.CAC.uindy.edu.

Application Deadline: Applications are due to CAC by 5:00pm on September 15, 2007. Only mailed or hand delivered applications will be accepted. Successful applicants will be notified in writing by October 1, 2007 with funding available by October 15, 2007.

Contact information: University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community, 901 S. Shelby Street Indianapolis, IN 46203, (317) 791-5930 PHONE (317) 791-5945 FAX www.CAC.uindy.edu



The Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism will be meeting on Thursday, August 9, beginning at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held in conference room 21 at the Indiana Government Center South, 302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis.

The Training Calendar located on the OFBCI's website has been updated with August training opportunities. You can check them out at <http://www.in.gov/ofbci/2414.htm>.

Week 3 of the "7 Weeks of Domestic Violence Awareness"

Last week we introduced the "7 Weeks of Domestic Violence Awareness" community-wide effort to reduce domestic violence. We encourage you to take action to educate our communities about preventing intimate partner violence by participating in this education and media campaign. You can participate by simply including the following message in your sermon or message or adding the information to your bulletin, newsletter, or other written information on the "prescribed weeks". Here is this week's information:

Week of Sunday, August 5th

As with any other type of trauma, survivors of domestic violence often present warning signs that go unrecognized or unaddressed. The following is a list of some behaviors that family, friends, neighbors or colleagues might see from a person living in a violent home:

- ◆ Gives up favored hobbies or activities.
- ◆ Changes in dress or appearance due to partner's disapproval.
- ◆ Increasing isolation or withdrawal from family and friends.
- ◆ Sudden changes in mood or personality.
- ◆ Hyper-vigilance.
- ◆ Signs/symptoms of anxiety or depression.
- ◆ Fear of partner or fear of discussing relationship.
- ◆ Increase in alcohol or drug use.
- ◆ Unexplained injuries such as scratches, cuts or bruises (or a story that is inconsistent with the injuries).

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is looking for individuals or programs that have made a significant contribution to promoting successful adoptions of children from foster care through the annual Adoption Excellence Award. Each year, ACF recognizes individuals, families, and organizations for their leadership, innovation, and dedication to finding permanent, loving homes for children. Nominees can include states, public agencies, universities, tribes, courts, families, faith-based organizations, and businesses. Awards are made in 10 categories and nominations are due by August 17th. For more information, visit http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/current_initiatives/aea2007letter.htm



The Civic Mission of Schools website has posted a new series of school profiles on its database, Civic Learning Online. The profiles are a great way to see how principals, superintendents, and teachers can put civic learning at the heart of school reform...public, charter, small-school, rural, urban. The profiles help make the case for civic learning in a range of settings, and they offer practical ideas for educators and advocates on how to make systemic, school- and district-wide change. To learn more, visit <http://www.civicmissionofschools.org/>

The NEC Foundation of America funds nonprofit organizations in the development, application and use of technology for people with disabilities. The grant range is \$1,500 to \$75,000. The application deadline is **September 1, 2007**. For more information, go to <http://www.necfoundation.org/toapply/toapply.htm>

